

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

PRESCILLA PETRILLO,

Plaintiff,

v.

PINNACLE SERVICES, INC.,

Defendants.

3:22-cv-00261-MMD-CLB

**ORDER SCHEDULING VIRTUAL
SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE**

A settlement conference utilizing Zoom video conferencing technology is scheduled to commence on **Wednesday, March 13, 2024**, at **9:00 a.m.** before United States Magistrate Judge Carla Baldwin. The court will send an email containing information required to join the Zoom video conference prior to the hearing date. Consideration of settlement is a serious matter that requires thorough preparation prior to the virtual settlement conference. Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

I. **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**

The attorneys who will try the case, the parties, and the person or persons who have full authority to negotiate and settle the case, on any terms, must personally attend the virtual settlement conference and are required to be present on the video for the entirety of the conference without exception. This requires the presence of the attorney's client, or if a corporate, governmental, or other organizational entity, an authorized representative of the client. For a defendant, such representative must have final settlement authority to commit the organization to pay, in the representative's own discretion, a settlement amount up to the plaintiff's prayer, or up to the plaintiff's last demand, whichever is lower. For a plaintiff, such representative must have final authority, in the representative's own discretion, to authorize dismissal of the case with prejudice, or to accept a settlement amount down to the defendant's last offer. If board approval is

1 required to authorize settlement, the attendance of at least one sitting member of the board
2 (preferably the chairperson) is absolutely required.

3 If an insurance company is a party, or is contractually required to defend or to pay
4 damages, they must also have a fully authorized settlement representative present for the
5 entirety of the video settlement conference. Such representative must have final
6 settlement authority to commit the company to pay, in the representative's own discretion,
7 an amount within the policy limits, or up to the plaintiff's last demand, whichever is lower.¹

8 Any exceptions to the above attendance requirements must be requested by a
9 motion to the court no later than one-week prior to the scheduled virtual settlement
10 conference.

11 Counsel appearing for the virtual settlement conference without their client, client
12 representatives, or insurance company representatives, as described above, will cause
13 the settlement conference to be canceled or rescheduled. The non-complying party,
14 attorney or both may be assessed the costs and expenses incurred by other parties and
15 the court due to the cancellation, as well as any additional sanctions the court deems
16 appropriate.

17 II. PRE-CONFERENCE NEGOTIATIONS

18 **Prior to the virtual settlement conference, the parties are to negotiate and**
19 **make a good faith effort to settle the case without the involvement of the Court.**
20 **Specific proposals and counter proposals shall be made.** Plaintiff(s) shall make an
21 offer to defendant(s) fifteen (15) days prior to the virtual settlement conference.
22 Defendant(s) shall make a counteroffer to plaintiff(s) ten (10) days prior to the virtual
23 settlement conference. The parties shall provide copies of the offer and counteroffer to
24 the court via email Clb_chambers@nvd.uscourts.gov. If the parties fail to present specific
25 proposals and counter proposals prior to the virtual settlement conference, sanctions may
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28 ¹ Counsel are responsible for timely advising any involved non-party insurance company of the requirements of this order.

1 be imposed by the court if appropriate.

2 III. SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE STATEMENT

3 No later than seven (7) days prior to the virtual settlement conference, the parties
4 must submit a confidential settlement conference statement directly to Judge Baldwin's
5 chambers. The purpose of the settlement conference statement is to assist the court in
6 preparing for and conducting the virtual settlement conference. The settlement conference
7 statement shall not exceed ten (10) pages and must be typed and double spaced.² The
8 settlement conference statement must contain the following:

- 9 1. A brief statement of the core and primary facts, claims, and defenses;
- 10 2. A brief discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the case;
- 11 3. An estimate of the cost and time to be expended on further pretrial and trial
12 matters should the case not settle;
- 13 4. An outline of past settlement efforts, including a summary of the past
14 settlement discussions, offers, and demands exchanged by the parties;
- 15 5. The settlement proposal that you believe would be fair; and,
- 16 6. The settlement proposal that you would honestly be willing to make in order
17 to conclude this matter and stop the expense of litigation.

18 The settlement conference statements may be emailed to chambers by emailing
19 Clb_chambers@nvd.uscourts.gov or may be mailed to chambers at 400 S. Virginia St.,
20 Room No. 404, Reno, Nevada 89501. The settlement conference statements are due by
21 no later than **4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 2024**. DO NOT DELIVER OR MAIL
22 THEM TO THE CLERK'S OFFICE; DO NOT SERVE A COPY ON OPPOSING
23 COUNSEL. The confidentiality of each statement will be strictly maintained in Judge
24 Baldwin's chambers. Following the conference, the settlement conference statements will
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27 ² This page limitation is inclusive of legal citations, footnotes and endnotes. The
28 parties may attach as exhibits only those documents which are necessary and relevant to
the key factual and legal issues in the case, including selected pages from deposition
transcripts or responses to other discovery requests.

1 be destroyed.

2 IV. ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED

3 The parties shall be prepared to discuss the following at the virtual settlement
4 conference:

- 5 1. Their goals in the litigation and any problems they would like to address in
6 the settlement conference and their understanding of the opposing side's goals;
- 7 2. Any issues (in and outside the lawsuit) that need to be resolved in order for
8 a settlement to be reached;
- 9 3. The strengths and weaknesses of their case;
- 10 4. Their understanding of the opposing side's view of the case;
- 11 5. Their points of agreement and disagreement (factual and legal);
- 12 6. Any financial, emotional, and/or legal impediments to settlement; and,
- 13 7. Any suggestions or possibilities for a creative resolution of the dispute.

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15 DATED this 22nd day of January, 2024.

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18 CARLA BALDWIN
19 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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